(c) and (d) These are major acquisition proposals involving substantial expenditure and therefore all technical and commercial aspects have to be examined carefully.

(e) Indian Air Force has been using MIG-21 FL fighter aircrafts for advanced jet training of fighter pilots.

(f) The Government is keen on early finalisation of procurement of AJT.

Purchase of Auto Pilot System

4817. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU :
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in purchasing auto pilot system;

(b) whether the Appraisal Committee has submitted its report on Jaguar Upgradation Programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps that have been taken or are being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A contract was concluded for procurement of a suitable Auto Pilot System in 1999. This contract could not be implemented in practical terms due to the non-availability of adequate space for the Auto Pilot Electronic Unit (APEU) in the aircraft. Suitable reconfiguration and certification by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) was required for the installation of the APEU. This issue has been resolved. Integration work on the programme has already commenced.

(b) and (c) there is no Appraisal Committee. However, the Price Negotiation Committee has completed its negotiation with M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Jaguar Upgradation programme. Government have approved the Upgradation programme by HAL and the contract is likely to be signed shortly with HAL.

Deployment of Missiles

†4818. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not deployed any of its missiles so far despite development of missiles like Agni etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when such missiles are likely to be deployed ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Surface-to-Surface Missile Prithvi (Army version), with a range of 150 km has been deployed by the Army. Production of Prithvi-II with a range of 250 km, has started after successful completion of development and flight testing. This version will go for deployment by the Army and Air Force. Production of Agni-I (with a range of 700 km) and Agni-II (with a range of 2000 km) have already started. They will be deployed during 2003. The other missiles are in various stages of development and flight testing.

Election to Cantonment Councils

†4819. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that election has not been conducted so far of the 62 cantonment, councils in the country after the tenure thereof had elapsed on February 2, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to conduct election of all the cantonment councils as early as possible ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Tenure of only 50 Cantonment Boards had expired during the year 2002 which were extended for a further period of one year. Thereafter, the constitution of these Boards were varied for one more year under Section 14 of the Cantonments Act, 1924. Election to another Cantonment Board, Badami Bagh has not been possible due to law and order situation prevailing there. The term of the remaining Boards has not yet expired.

(c) In view of the exercise undertaken for bringing a New Cantonment Act, it has been decided to hold elections soon after its enactment.

High Court order on Relief to a Disabled Pilot

4820. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has directed the Indian Air Force to give permanent commission and an alternate job to a pilot who was disabled during a rescue operation;

(b) if so, the details of the case in which the directive was issued by the Hon'ble High Court; and

(c) whether any follow-up action has been taken with regard thereto and if so, the details thereof ?

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†Original notice of the question was received ih Hindi.